

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY2002 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM  
PROJECT NUMBER: C-6 construction

I. Project Title:

Habitat restoration and enhancement (construction) for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

II. Submitted by: Pat Nelson  
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III. Project Summary:

The goal of the Habitat Restoration Program is to restore or enhance natural floodplain functions that support recovery of endangered fishes in the upper Colorado River basin. Construction is used to restore river-floodplain connectivity and to provide access to and from the floodplain for endangered fishes. Construction had been planned for three sites during FY 2002. Construction has not begun on any of the sites for reasons identified in section VI.

IV. Project Schedule:

Initial Year: 1997  
Final Year: TBD

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

GREEN RIVER ACTION PLAN: MAINSTEM

II. Restore habitat

II.A. Restore and manage flooded bottomland habitat.

II.A.3. Implement levee removal strategy at high-priority sites

II.A.3.b. Construction (levee breaching).

COLORADO RIVER ACTION PLAN: MAINSTEM

II. Restore habitat

II.A. Restore and manage flooded bottomland habitat.

II.A.4. Implement levee removal strategy at high-priority sites

II.A.4.b. Construction (levee breaching).

COLORADO RIVER ACTION PLAN: GUNNISON RIVER

## II. Restore habitat

### II.A. Restore and manage flooded bottomland habitat.

#### II.A.2. Implement levee removal strategy at high-priority sites

##### II.A.2.b. Construction (levee breaching).

## VI. Accomplishment of FY 2002 Tasks and Deliverables:

Capital funding had been earmarked to restore/enhance habitat at the following three sites in 2002. Construction had originally been scheduled to begin in late summer or early fall of 2002.

### Colorado River

**GJ Pipe.** This gravel pit was acquired in fee from Grand Junction Pipe and Supply in FY 2000. Located at Colorado River RM 165.5, it is approximately 5 miles downstream from the confluence with the Gunnison River. The plan for this site was to lower portions of the levees to allow entrainment of drifting razorback sucker larvae during spring runoff. The construction costs had been estimated at \$99,800 plus \$77,000 in rip-rap.

The levee on the downstream end of the site has been eroding away over the years, and the river is expected to eventually breach the levee, possibly within the next few years. Because FWS-Refuges expressed concern about potential liability if adjacent landowners perceived that they had been affected by Recovery Program construction activities (August 8, 2002 pre-construction meeting), a decision was made to postpone construction. The levee erosion rate will be monitored to predict when the levee may breach naturally, and decisions regarding habitat enhancement options will be made at some future date.

**Walter Walker SWA.** More adult Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker have been found using CDOW's Walter Walker State Wildlife Area than have been captured throughout the entire remainder of the Colorado River. It is believed that these fish have been attracted to the habitat complexity and diversity of the area. The plan for this site was to lower the upstream levee in three locations to help maintain the diversity and complexity of the area. The construction cost had been estimated at \$38,200 plus \$22,000 in rip-rap. Recently, a gravel mining company located adjacent to the site has agreed to remove the levee at no cost, and removal is scheduled to begin in March 2003.

## Gunnison River

**Unaweeep Charolais.** A perpetual easement was acquired on this gravel pit in FY 2001. It is located on the Gunnison River near Whitewater, RM 12, nine miles upstream from the Redlands diversion dam. The plan for this site is to lower portions of the levees to allow entrainment of drifting larvae during spring runoff. Construction costs had been estimated at \$80,800 plus \$106,000 for rip-rap. NEPA requirements and 404 permit expiration have delayed construction, which is now tentatively scheduled to begin after 2003 spring runoff.

VII. Recommendations: None

VIII. Project Status: Ongoing

IX. FY 2002 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$423,800
- B. Funds Expended: \$ 0
- C. Difference: \$423,800
- D. Percent of the FY 02 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 0%; \$186.8K to complete.
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: N/A

X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): N/A

XI. Signed: Pat Nelson 2/14/03  
Principal Investigator Date